Hike in air-fare

325. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many times air-fares were hiked during the period from December 2, 1989 to November 11, 1990; and

(b) what is the percentage increase in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) During the period December 2, 1989 to November 11, 1990, Indian Airlines has increased the domestic rupee fares on two occasions:

(i) Effective 11th April, 1990, by 15.7 per cent to offset the steep increase in the Price of aviation turbine fuel.

(ii) Effective 26th September, 1990, by 10 per cent on account of Gulf Evacuation Surcharge.

Furthermore, with effect from 1.7.1990, the Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) has been increased from 10 per cent of basic fare to 15 per cent of the total fare. This, however, is a tax levied by the Government which accrues to the Government and not the Indian Airlines.

Amendment to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

326. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to correct lacunae; and

(b) if so, the details of modifications/changes made in the said Act since its inceptions and those likely to be made; and

(c) to what extent the changes would be effective to curb the sale and of adulterated food items?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) to (c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 has been amended thrice since its inception, i.e. 1964, 1976 and 1986. A statement outlining salient features of amendments made so far is attached. (*See below*)

There are further proposals to review the various provisions of the Act with major thrust on consumer protection.

Statement

Amendments to the provisions of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 from time to time

Sl. No.	Amendments of 1964	Amendments of 1976	Amendments of 1986
1	2	3	4
1.	Powers to the Central Govt. to appoint its own food inspectors and public Analysts.	(1) Definition of primary foods which includes food of agriculture or horticulture origin in its natural form in order that these foods, if not, conforming to standards of quality on account of natural factors should not be considered as adulterated;	The recognised consumer associations have been empowered to take samples of food and institute prosecution in addition to individual purchaser who was already enjoying such power.
2.	Execution of a bond by a vendor whenever an article of food seized is kept under its custody;		
3.	Reducing the number of witnesses from two to one at the time of drawing samples.	(2) Establishment of more than one Central Food Laboratory;	

1	2	3	4
	4. Provision of a warranty by amanufacturer, distributor or dealer to vendor;	(3) Inclusion of five consumers' representatives on the Central Committee for Food Standards.	
	5. The penal clause was made more deterrent by providing minimum of six months imprisonment which may extend to 6 years and cancellation of licence on second or subsequent offence.	(4) Seizure and disposal of perishable foods, unfit for human consumption, by Local (Health) Authority;	
	6. Provision of impleading the manufacturer during the trial of case, if the court is satisfied that he is also responsible for the committance of the offence.	(5) Provision of summary trials;	
		(6) Provision for seizure of documents;	
		(7) Providing of more deterrent punishments for various offences.	

Service to consumers by LPG distributors

327. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum and maximum number of consumers required for a LPG distributorship;

(b) the names of LPG distributors in Delhi with more than the maximum number of consumers required;

(c) whether it is a fact that the distributors such as Kiran Gas Service, Khan Market are not in a position to provide satisfactory service to consumers because of heavy load of consumers registered with them; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No minimum/maximum number of consumers have been prescribed for an LPG distributorship. However, a slab based on the monthly refill sale ranging from 4000 to 8000 refills has been prescribed depending on the population of the concerned town/city.

(b) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the above information.

Use of Compressed Natural Gas in transport sector

328. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use compressed natural gas instead of petrol to run taxis in Bombay and Delhi to find a long term solution of the oil crisis;

(b) if so, what are the details of the use of compressed natural gas in the transport sector; and

(c) to what extent it will help conservation of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. This is proposed to be done on a pilot basis.

(b) GAIL has invited offers for supply of conversion kits for converting 5000 Passenger cars each in cities of Bombay and Delhi. Besides conversion kits, compressor and dispensing units for CNG filling are also required to provide CNG filling facilities at suitable locations in Bombay and Delhi.

(c) The extent to which petrol can be substituted by CNG can be assessed only after the successful implementation of the pilot project being taken up by GAIL.